

Remarks


Claims 1-44, 56-61, 66, 67, 70, 71, 74-76, 81, 82, 84-96, 101-103, 106-110, 112-122 were previously pending in the application, of which, claims 114-119 were previously allowed. In response to the Office Action, the Applicant elects Group I, which includes claims 1-44, 56-61, 66, 67, 70, 71, 74-76, 81, 82, 84-92, and 114-120. Claims 93-96, 101-103, 106-110, 112-113, 121, and 122 have been withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected invention or species.

This election is traversed, in part, because certain of the claims listed as belonging to Group II, more properly should be listed with Group I. Specifically, the election is traversed as to claims 93, 101, 102, 106-109, 112, 113, and 121. Each of these claims properly falls within the class 623, subclass 17.15. For example, independent claims 101, 106 – 108 all recite, “a central body positioned and articulable between two shells.” Independent claim 93 recites, “an elastomeric central body positioned between two shells.” Applicant respectfully requests that the claim groupings be reconsidered.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees, including extension of time fees, are necessary, the extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP’s Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

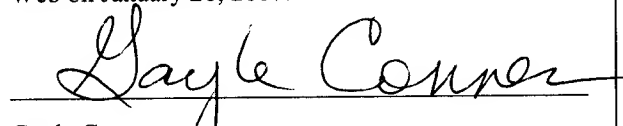
Respectfully submitted,


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Gayle Conner